(b) A case under section 436 IPC has been registered at the Police Station Kirti Nagar. The Central Forensic Science Laboratory has carried out an analysis of the samples of burnt material collected from the site. The analysis indicates the presence of some inflammable liquid. No opinion has been given regarding the cause of fire.

Shelter given to Tripura National Volunteers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

989. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tripura National Volunteers who committed a series of murders in South Tripura recently have been getting shelters in the neighbouring Chittagong hill tracts;

(b) if so, wehther the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh for effectively checking the operation of TNV men from the territory of Bangladesh; and

(c) what other measures are being contemplated to curb violence by the Tripura National Volunteers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) According to reports, the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) have been operating from bases across the border.

(b) The attention of Bangladesh Government was drawn to such reports. They have denied the existence of any such bases.

(c) Steps have already been taken to check the activities of TNV which include:—

(i) declaration of more areas as 'disturbed' in Tripura on 24-1-1987 by the State Government (ii) declaration of TNV as 'unlawful' organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 by the Central Government on 4.2.1987 (iii) gearing up of intelligence net-work in the State, (iv) arrangements for better coordination between different agencies involved in the operations against the extremists, (v) increase in the vigil on the border (vi) the strengthening of para-military forces suitably.

Sending of Girls from Kerala to Italy

990. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made investigations into the reported allegations against a Priest in Kottayam, Kerala, for sending girls from Kerala to join nunneries in Italy; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Kerala Fr. Cyriac Puthenpura against whom some allegations had been made in this regard had denied the allegations.

Arrest of Army Deserters and Absconders in J&K

991. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of army deserters and absconders involved in criminal cases have been arersted in Jammu and Kashmir; and